

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: EZUMI, et al.
 Serial No.: 10/058,957
 Filed: January 30, 2002
 For: FRICTION STIR WELDING METHOD
 Group: 1725
 Examiner: Z. Pittman

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 GROUP 1700

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 24, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend the claims remaining in the application as follows:

1. (Amended) A friction stir welding method comprising:

conducting friction stir welding of at least first and second members, the at least first and second members forming a joint line, the friction stir welding being performed using a rotary tool along the joint line;

retreating said rotary tool from said at least first and second members being welded, when said rotary tool, moving along the joint line, reaches a position where

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